

# Water Wise Irrigation Professional Seminar February 23, 2012



Richard Allen

# Agenda



- ✓ Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- ✓ Common violations concerning irrigators
- ✓ Complaint statistics
- ✓ House Bill 2507
- ✓ Irrigator Advisory Council and their role
- ✓ Commonly asked questions
- ✓ Other activities
- ✓ Contacting Us

# Continuing Education (CEUs)/Renewing Your License

- ✓ Continuing education classes approved by TCEQ
- ✓ Must be completed before the license expires
- ✓ An irrigator cannot work on an irrigation system with an expired license

# Continuing Education/Renewing Your License

- ✓ Irrigator with a 3 year license-24 hours
- ✓ Irrigation Inspector-24 hours
- ✓ Irrigation Technician-16 hours
- ✓ Licenses can be renewed through

Texas On-Line

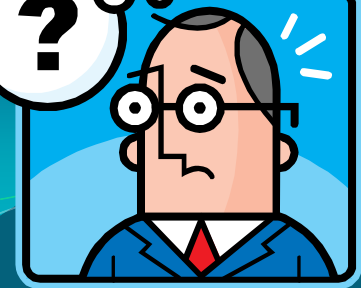
[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/licensing/licenses/online\\_renewals.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/licensing/licenses/online_renewals.html)

# Continuing Education/Renewing Your License

- ✓ CEU's can be classroom, on-line, or correspondence.
- ✓ Correspondence and on-line courses cannot be repeated in a renewal period-they can only be taken once.
- ✓ You can request a paper renewal application.
- ✓ A blue reminder postcard will be mailed.

# Continuing Education/Renewing Your License

- ✓ If you have moved, you are required to notify TCEQ within 10 business days of your new address. This information can be sent by fax to (512) 239-0533, or by email to [licenses@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:licenses@tceq.texas.gov).
- ✓ Do not wait until the last minute to renew



## Commonly Asked Question

Q: Is there a 30 day grace period on my license? My license expires on 02/28/12. Can I continue to install irrigation systems until 03/28/12?

A: No

# Common Violations



- ✓ Failure to obtain a permit
- ✓ Failure to test and inspect the backflow prevention device
- ✓ Failure to display the irrigator's license number in an advertisement
- ✓ Failure to have the required components on the irrigation plan



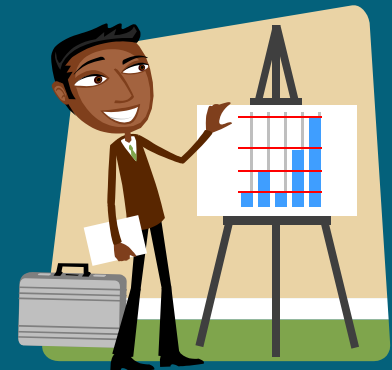
# Complaints & Enforcement Statistics

- ✓ Currently have a few open complaints
- ✓ For Fiscal Year FY 12 (02/10/12):
  - Notice of Enforcement (NOEs)-15
  - Notice of Violations (NOVs)-32
  - Administrative Orders

12 Issued

\$8,817 collected

Range-\$155 to \$1,840





# Enforcement Statistics

FY	NOEs	NOVs	Admin. Orders
2007	79	132	25
2008	32	53	49
2009	48	71	31
2010	89	80	56 1 OAG Referral
2011	30	127	50

# Complaint Resolution

- Complaints can be resolved by:
  - Notice of Violation (NOV)
  - Notice of Enforcement (NOE)-administrative or civil penalty
  - License suspension or revocation
  - Dismissal due to insufficient documentation:  
Invoice, cancelled check, contract, photographs, advertisement, correspondence
  - Refer to municipality with landscape irrigation ordinance

## 2011 Austin Summer Blitz

- Visited 29 sites in Austin and surrounding areas-July 20<sup>th</sup>-July 21<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- Common violations found:
  - Irrigation heads too close to hardscape
  - No sticker on the controller box
  - Advertising without a license

# Common Violations Found



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# Common Violations Found

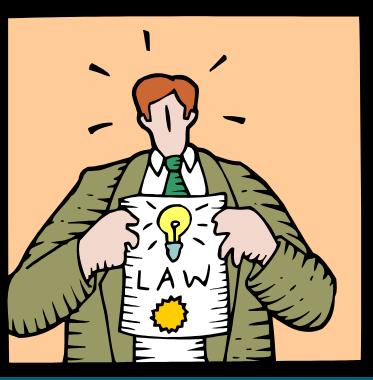




# Common Violations Found







## House Bill 2507

- Relates to the installation of a landscape irrigation system without a license
- Class C misdemeanor
- Can result in fines up to \$500.00
- Can be filed in Municipal and Justice of the Peace Courts
- Effective September 1, 2011

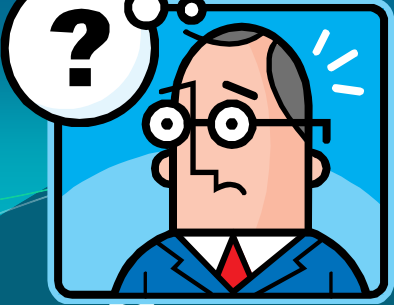
# Irrigator Advisory Council and their Role:

- Composed of nine members appointed by TCEQ.
- Six licensed irrigators and three public members.
- Provides feedback and suggestions to improve landscape irrigation in Texas.
- Experienced in the irrigation business and familiar with irrigation methods and techniques.

# Irrigator Advisory Council Nominations

- Three council members terms expire on February 1, 2013.
- Meet three times a year-February, June, November.
- To nominate someone provide:
  - A copy of a resume showing relevant experience.
  - A letter or email from the nominated person stating that if appointed, they will serve a six year term.

For more information contact the TCEQ at (512) 239-5296 or email at [INSTALL@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:INSTALL@tceq.texas.gov)



## Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Can a licensed irrigator repair a backflow prevention device?

A: No, only an individual that holds a Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester license can repair a backflow prevention device



## Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Is a permit required to install an irrigation system?

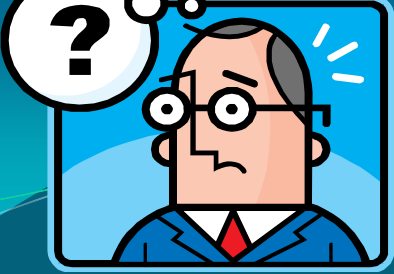
A: Yes, in a municipality or water districts that requires a permit.



## Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Does the licensed irrigator or licensed technician provide on-site supervision during the irrigation installation?

A: The licensed irrigator must provide on-site supervision. The licensed technician under the supervision of the licensed irrigator can provide on-site supervision during the installation of the irrigation installation



# Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Where do I display my license number?

- On vehicles and/or trailers used in installing, maintaining, altering or repairing irrigation systems
- In all advertising-web sites, business cards, newspapers, telephone books, television, coupons, and publications
- On business documents- contracts, invoices, plans



## Commonly Asked Questions

Q: What is the appropriate backflow prevention device in a harvested rainwater system? PVB, AVB, RPZ, Air Gap, Double Check

A: You will need to speak with your local regulatory agency.





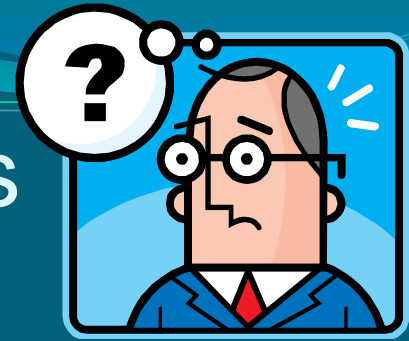
## Commonly Asked Questions

Q: When must a rain sensor (or other technology) be installed?

A: When a new irrigation system is installed (in most counties in Texas) or when an automatic controller is replaced and a rain sensor is not present

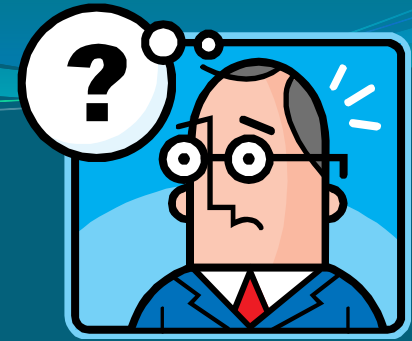
# Commonly Asked Questions

## Is this correct ?



# Commonly Asked Questions

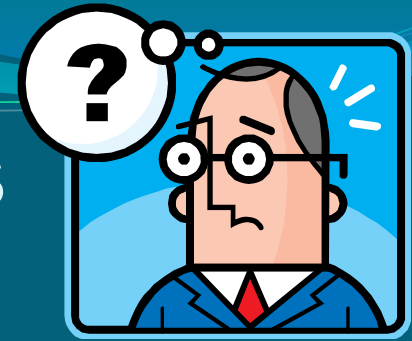
## Is this head correctly placed?





# Commonly Asked Questions

## Is this water conservation?





# How to File a Complaint

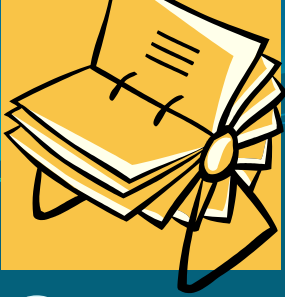
- Go to <http://www.tceq.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html> look for the “landscape irrigator or installer” link and click on it
- Complete the complaint form, attach any documents and send to TCEQ
- You will receive an e-mail indicating receipt of your complaint

## Other Activities We Perform

- Licensing examinations
- Expert witness testimony
- Training materials
- Speaking engagements
- Newsletter articles
- Web Pages

# Upcoming Events

- March 1-2 Texas Municipal League-Austin
- May 1-2 TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair-Austin
- June 10-14 Texas State Associations of Plumbing Inspectors (TSAPI)-Abilene
- August 17-19 Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA)-Houston



## Contacting Us

Phone: (512) 239-LAWN

Fax: (512) 239-2249

E-mail: [install@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:install@tceq.texas.gov)



# Questions?

